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## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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### **A New Department.**

With the present issue of *THE ANNALS* begins the publication of a department of Social Work, in charge of Professor Carl Kelsey. This addition to the departments, is made because the editors feel that there is a large number of topics of interest to the members of the Academy, and to the members of the community at large, which have not received adequate treatment in the past. The editors would request members of the Academy to submit suggestions bearing upon social topics, and to suggest other topics upon which discussion is desired.

In this issue mention is made of the unique Industrial Exhibit held in Philadelphia in December, which deserves more than local recognition.

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### **Appropriations for Charities.**

The legislature of Pennsylvania is again confronted with the problem of making proper appropriations for the poor, the sick, and the afflicted of the state. For many years in constantly increasing measure the private charities of the state have asked for appropriations to aid in carrying on their work. The legislature has responded most generously, so generously in fact that the governor has been put under the necessity of vetoing or reducing the appropriations because of the condition of the treasury. Without arguing the question of subsidy—a very difficult question in itself—it seems very obvious, even to the careless observer, that the time must soon come when entirely different methods shall be followed.

Nominally, the State Board of Public Charities receives the request for appropriations and makes its recommendations to the legislature. This board has been practically of comparatively little influence in determining the amount appropriated. Many institutions are in the habit of going directly to the legislature, entirely disregarding the state board. It is interesting, however, to note that this board has just recommended appropriations for 190 private societies and institutions in sums ranging from \$1,000 for a home for aged colored women at Williamsport to \$300,000 for the Mercy Hospital of Pittsburg, the total amount being \$4,561,000 for hospitals and \$575,000 to other institutions. In addition to this, \$6,111,000 has been recommended for state institutions owned and controlled by the state and \$1,517,400 for seven semi-state institutions which are under private control, but which are supported almost entirely by the state.

**An Industrial Exhibit.**

Between the 8th and the 16th of December there was held in Horticultural Hall, in Philadelphia, an exhibit of industrial conditions in Pennsylvania. The prime movers in the exhibit were the Pennsylvania Child Labor Committee and the local branch of the Consumers' League. A similar exhibition in London a year ago gave the suggestion.

The exhibit had to do chiefly with two great phases of our industrial life, the sweat shop and child labor. Philadelphia has never had an acute



A SWEAT SHOP. THE ORIGINAL OF THE EXHIBIT BOOTH.

tenement house problem because of the unrestricted opportunity for the expansion of the city. There is, however, a decided housing problem, and the unsanitary conditions of some districts can hardly be surpassed in any other city. Under such bad conditions a committee of the industrial exhibit found some thirty varieties of articles in process of manufacture. A considerable percentage of the clothing was being made, in whole or in part, under such conditions, and the makers of the garments were not properly protected by the laws of the city. In the exhibit were installed

booths representing, as accurately as possible, the actual conditions prevailing in custom tailor shops, sweat shops and homes, together with a booth representing a rag stripper's room. To make the representation complete, tailors and finishers were hired, cloth and other materials purchased, and thirty suits of clothing were made during the exhibit in the sweat shop booth. Three women, who were found finishing garments in their own homes, were hired to do this work for the exhibit.

In the case of trousers, this finishing consists in making four button-



FINISHING OVERCOATS AT ELEVEN CENTS APIECE.

holes, sewing on fourteen buttons, turning in and facing the bottoms, finishing the fly and stitching in the waist-band. The usual price in Philadelphia for this work is seven cents a pair, and then, if the work does not please the contractor, he orders it done over, and the finisher is "docked" a cent or a cent and a half on the seven-cent job of finishing the trousers.

The custom tailoring in Philadelphia is centered around Walnut Street, and in the afternoon one may see children carrying clothing from the fashionable custom tailor shops to the shops down town, where it is sewed,

and then to the living rooms in the tenements, where it is finished. Under the law the Walnut Street tailors must demand a permit which states that the conditions under which this clothing is sewed and finished are sanitary, but some of these permits are three years old and the down town shops and the living rooms vie with one another in their bad sanitation and wretched surroundings. From the opening of the exhibit these booths were sur-



RAG-STRIPPING AND SEWING AT TWO CENTS FOR 240 YARDS. ROOM IS 6 X 12 FEET.  
IT CONTAINS TWO BEDS, COOK STOVE AND TABLE.

[This is the "house" of the worker and her two boys.]

rounded by a group of people upon whom the representations made great impression.

The rag stripper was a little Italian woman who was found in a second story room eight by twelve feet. In this room she cooked, slept and tore the rags, which her fourteen-year-old boy picked in the streets, into strips, sewed the strips together, and wound them into balls for rag carpets. For this work Mrs. B. was receiving two cents for each 240 yards of rags which she prepared.

In separate booths were a shawl fringer, a paper flower maker, an apron maker and two workers on underwear, all of whom had been found plying



A COURT TAILOR SHOP.

their trades at home, and to whom the exhibit, with its extra pay while the work went on, came as a boon.

As an object lesson to the consumer, the Philadelphia Consumers' League collected a group of articles manufactured in the homes of the workers, and

displayed them on tables. In order that the lesson might not fail to impress, a label was attached to each garment giving the wages and hours of the worker. Beside each "sweated" garment was another, made under good



FOUR A. M. "THE END OF THE NIGHT'S WORK." PHOTO TAKEN AT NINTH AND MARKET STREETS.

conditions, bearing the Consumers' League label and a contrasting statement of the hours and the wages of the workers.

In his last report the Secretary of Commerce and Labor at Washington says: "Pennsylvania ranks first, and Massachusetts second, in the employment of children in manufactures." In Pittsburg the children roll stogies;

in Lancaster they wrap caramels; in Reading they work on felt hats; in Scranton they spin silk night and day; in the western counties they work in the soft coal mines; in the eastern counties they work in the hard coal breakers; and in Philadelphia they work at everything from hosiery to glass bottles. A stage artist prepared booths from photographs, by painting in backgrounds and filling the open space with groups of life-size figures of children. In this way the conditions of child labor in the state were shown most impressively. The lessons were further brought home by a series of more than a hundred pictures showing conditions in all parts of the state.

The exhibit included no more interesting work than that done by the students of Bryn Mawr College. The branch of the Consumers' League which has been organized at that institution volunteered their services, and prepared a series of fifteen charts and a large map of the United States, to show the distribution, amount and effects of child labor.

Those features constituted the main part of the exhibit. In addition, all of the societies in Philadelphia which are aiming to better the social conditions were asked to show in a graphic way some of the problems which they encountered, and methods employed in solving them. Many accepted this offer. The Charity Organization Society laid special stress on its Wayfarers' Lodge; the Visiting Nurse Society showed a room in a tenement before and after the arrival of the visiting nurse; the Research and Protective Association showed models of good and bad employment bureaus; the various children's societies showed what they are doing for children; and the Public Education Association showed actual and model school conditions, and by means of manual training classes attempted to impress the public with the fact that there is a great modern need in our cities for improved school facilities.

The mornings and afternoons were devoted to the various exhibiting societies, who, in most cases, with the aid of a lantern, explained the scope and character of their work. During the evenings leading social questions were discussed by speakers from all parts of the country. More than twenty-five thousand people saw the exhibit during the week it was open to the public.

On the second day a small boy with a dirty face and a dirtier sweater pushed his way up to the bureau of information. "Lady," said he, indicating the child labor exhibit, "I want to give something to help them poor children," and, depositing a grimy cent on the desk, merged with the crowd.

A handsomely dressed woman pointed her finger toward the rag picker's shop. "Such a thing brought here," said she, "will make anarchists." "Ah!" replied a social worker, "but what do you suppose such conditions, a thousand times repeated in this city, will develop in the place from which they come?" At least two persons were made to think.

The exhibition will be repeated in Chicago, Erie and Boston, in the order named.